

Varden Plantable Retaining Wall Block: Installation Overview

Installation Overview

Varden blocks install using the same proven methods as modular concrete retaining walls, but they're much easier to move and handle.

Step 1: Plan and Prep

- Check local codes (most jurisdictions allow walls up to 3–4 feet without a permit; taller walls may require engineering).
- Mark wall location with stakes and string line.
- Call 811 to locate underground utilities before digging.

Step 2: Excavate and Build Base

- Dig trench 6 inches deep plus block height, wider than block depth.
- Add 4–6 inches of compacted $\frac{3}{4}$ " crushed gravel.
- Level and compact firmly with hand tamper or plate compactor.
- Place 2 inches of sand on top the compacted base rock.
- Critical: First course must be perfectly level—this determines success of entire wall.

Step 3: Lay First Course

- Place blocks directly on compacted gravel base and on top of sand.
- Space blocks 9 inches apart for straight walls and see details for radii.
- Check level side-to-side and front-to-back for every block.
- Use rubber mallet for fine adjustments.

Step 4: Drainage (Essential)

- Install 4" perforated drainpipe at base, behind first course above ground.
- Backfill with 12–14 inches of crushed gravel behind blocks as you build.
- Wrap gravel with landscape fabric to prevent soil migration.

Step 5: Stack Subsequent Courses

- Offset joints in running-bond pattern (like bricks).
- Backfill with soil or gravel behind every course—never stack more than 12 inches before backfilling.
- For walls over 3 feet or in unstable soils, consider geogrid reinforcement (consult local engineer or Verdtech installation guide).

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Step 6: Fill and Plant

- Fill block pockets with quality planting soil or compost.
- Planting - complete wall first and plant from top down.
- Water thoroughly after planting and monitor until established.

Pro tips:

- Compact backfill in 6 inch layers, not all at once.
- Check level constantly, small errors multiply upward.
- Use gravel, not soil, for drainage layer behind wall.

Helpful Website Resource Links:

<https://www.verdtech.com/faq/>

<https://www.verdtech.com/varden-support-docs/>

<https://www.verdtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Varden-LRW-Blocks-2026.pdf.pdf>

<https://www.verdtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Varden-Block-Detail-Booklet-v2.pdf>

<https://www.verdtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Varden-Block-DIY-Installation-Guide-v2.pdf.pdf>